

Arizona Department of Economic Security

Promoting the Safety, Well-being and Self-sufficiency of Children, Adults and Families

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Cash Assistance Program

Director Tracy L. Wareing

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Human Services
House of Representatives Committee on Human Services
Committee of Reference

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Arizona Department of Economic Security

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Cash Assistance Program

- Overview
- Eligibility Requirements
- Time-Limited Assistance
- Program Success



Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Cash Assistance Program

Purpose

To maintain and strengthen families by providing *temporary* financial assistance and support services to needy *children* in their own homes, or the homes of responsible caretaker relatives



Eligibility Requirements

- Children must live with a parent, a relative caregiver, or their legal guardian
- For children living with parent(s), the household net income may not exceed \$275/month for a family of two
- Must be Resident of the State
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or Qualified Noncitizen
- The adult recipient must sign a Personal Responsibility Agreement which requires compliance with the Jobs Program and the Division of Child Support Enforcement

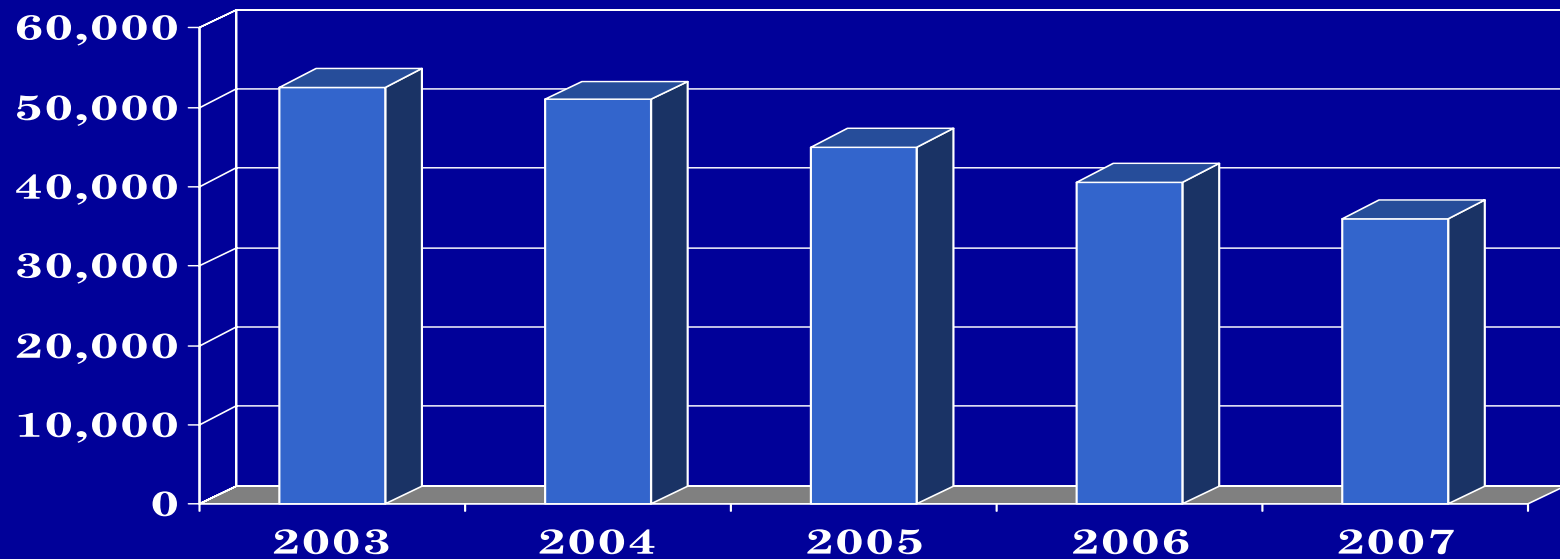
60-Month Lifetime Benefit Limit

- State and Federal law prohibits assistance to families – except child-only cases – beyond 60 months
- States may extend time-limited assistance to families beyond the 60 month time limit in hardship situations
- As of November 1, 2007, close to 1% of the current Cash Assistance adult caseload, or 197 families, has been granted an extension beyond the 60 month limit
- The majority of hardship extensions are caused by the adult either being disabled, or being the caretaker of a disabled household member

Percent of Families Receiving Cash Assistance by Length of Time on Assistance

- A majority of families, including child-only cases which are exempt from the time limits, receive Cash Assistance for less than 60 months:
 - 71% receive less than 36 months
 - 40% receive 12 months or less
- Excluding child-only cases, the average length of time on Cash Assistance for adults participating in the program in June 2007 was 10.4 months

The Cash Assistance Caseload has declined 27% in the past 4 years



- 14,000 fewer families on Cash Assistance in the past 4 years
- 17,500 Cash Assistance recipients found employment through Jobs in FY07
- Average wage was \$8.68, up 13% from \$7.65 in FY03

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Cash Assistance is a Bridge to Self-Sufficiency

